

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of THE
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This President's Message is one of my last duties as President of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Each month for the past twelve months I have attempted to write a message that has a definite subject and a specific objective. To have written in an abstract manner would have been a waste of my time and your time.

Similarly, any attempt to direct or to carry on the activities of this Association without a specific purpose would be uninteresting and unrewarding. Our purpose is the quest for knowledge—knowledge pertaining not only to agronomic subjects but to areas of administrative achievement and personal improvement. We practice our purpose in a formal manner and in an informal manner. The former is provided by presenting well planned educational programs; the latter by associating and conversing with fellow superintendents. None of this will be of value if one element is missing—*participation*; by taking part in the discussions during our meeting; by being active in an educational program; or, and this is elementary and often overlooked, by attending all of the functions of the Midwest Association. To repeat an old proverb, "you get out of it only as much as you put into it."

Our December meeting is the Midwest Association Annual Meeting and election of Officers. During this meeting you will have the opportunity to participate in a manner that is characteristic of a free society and a democratic organization. Become familiar with the abilities of the candidates and exercise your privilege to vote for the candidate of your choice.

Donald Gerber
President

REMEMBER!

THIRD ILLINOIS TURFGRASS
CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 6 & 7, 1962

AUDITORIUM, LAW BUILDING
URBANA, ILLINOIS

BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER

Borrowed from "OUR COLLABORATOR"

the Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association. Jack Gomley, Editor, and Lawrence Mattei President.

Be an active member,
The kind that would be missed;
Don't be just contented
That your name is on the list.
Do attend the meetings
And mingle with the crowd;
Do take an active part
And make the Chapter proud.
Take time out to visit
A member who is sick;
Don't leave the work for just a few
And think they are a clique.
There is quite a program scheduled
That means success, if done;
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.
So attend the meetings regularly
And help with hand and heart;
Be an active member
And take an active part.
Think this over, Member
Are we right or are we wrong?
Be an active member
DON'T JUST BELONG!

BUILDING NEW SOILS FOR TURFGRASS AREAS

By H. B. MUSSER

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In the construction of lawns and other turfgrass areas it is common practice to scalp off and stockpile the topsoil, then replace it after the subgrade has been completed. Where topsoil has not been saved, specifications for turf establishment often require that new topsoil be purchased and applied over the surface in layers of varying thickness.

This is a desirable practice if good quality soil is available at a reasonable price. On the other hand, there are many instances where the topsoil used is so poor that the over-all cost is not justified. It may be wiser to build new soil by modifying the existing material on the area. This would be less expensive and provide a better soil medium for turf production.

Unfortunately, the idea is still all too prevalent that topsoil is a panacea . . . that using a five or six inch layer of it is sufficient to insure good turf establishment. This is seldom justified, from either a chemical or physical standpoint. Because of erosion, leaching or poor previous management, topsoil often may contain less total nutrients than the subsoil below it! In addition, physical condition of the purchased topsoil may be so poor that it will not support good turf growth without extensive modification.

Even when good topsoil is available, its cost should be carefully compared with the cost of modifying existing soil to put it in good condition for turf production. In many urban locations good quality topsoil is scarce and expensive. It may be much more economical to improve the existing soil by the use of fertilizer and physical conditioning materials. In many cases the cost of the required materials, plus application and mixing, will